

HB 124 -- ABORTION

SPONSOR: Black

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 9 to 3.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to create a video that contains all of the information that must be provided to a woman considering an abortion by the physician who is to perform or induce the abortion except that the video is not required to contain the name of the physician who will perform or induce the abortion, the telephone number at which the physician may be later reached to answer any questions the woman may have, and the location of the hospital that offers obstetrical or gynecological care located within 30 miles of the location where the abortion is performed or induced at which the physician has clinical privileges and where the woman may receive follow-up care by the physician if complications arise.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will enhance current informed consent laws for abortion. People have different modalities of learning style. Current law requires a woman to be given a packet of information containing the required information. This packet is not helpful for those who don't learn via reading or are blind. The video can help an individual's understanding of the provided information. The video would be produced by the Department of Health and Senior Services and would be shown to the patient along with the current informed consent packet. The video would be a mirror image of the printed packet, just in video.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Black; Joanne Schrader; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Right to Life; Campaign Life Missouri; and Missouri Catholic Conference.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that women seeking an abortion already undergo a huge process to obtain an abortion. They are provided with a 22-page booklet provided by the state that already provides all of the information contained in the proposed video. When choosing to regulate a field in which you do not practice, legislators should ask those being regulated about the affects of the regulation. Standardized counseling ignores the individualization of health care provided to each patient and state mandated information includes medical inaccuracies that must be addressed by the physician to comport with the standard of care.

Testifying against the bill were Ann Frisse; Charlie Becker; Colleen McNicholas; Ellen Dempsher; Jennifer Bernstein; Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri; Machelles Warren; Nora Burdis;

NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri; Rachel Zigler; ACLU of Missouri; Sarah Whelan; Shelby Kleweis; and Stephanie Bradshaw.